



# *Real design & restoration*

Kim Whinnett of Barnes of Ashburton explains how a special project has seen the specialists return to the home of a previous client

**W**e have worked for clients Barbara and Trevor for over 30 years, making various pieces of furniture with the original kitchen design completed for them back in 2003. When they got in touch last year to say they had plans to extend the cottage we were delighted to find ourselves back in the kitchen, discussing how we could re-use as much of the existing cabinetwork as possible and eating chocolate and ginger biscuits!

It became clear quite quickly once we had the floor plan on the board that our proprietor Patrick Gunning could re-use almost everything, including the existing work surfaces and majority of appliances within his design.

One run, with the exception of an extra piece of granite after losing the domino hob, upgrade of the fridge and slight adaption of the wall

cabinet to house the new Oak beam, was beautifully refurbished and put back in place.

The entire original sink run including the sink and tap is now the Aga face of the island which is complemented by our workshop foreman Ethan Week's show-stopping Elm top. The new Aga is complemented by new cabinet work, made to the exact specification of the existing furniture so it's almost impossible to tell the old from the new. The room is then completed with the elegant open rack dresser, made to house Barbara's wonderful collection of pottery.

It was the icing on the cake to find ourselves working with Stuart Mason of Mason Construction and Woodford Architects.

Barbara explains the background to the latest project and her delight at its completion: "A conversation whilst on holiday in February 2016 led us to







consider having our kitchen knocked down and a new, bigger kitchen built that would link into an existing barn, which would become a breakfast room and study. We discussed our ideas with Woodford Associates, Ashburton and with the team at Barnes. We wanted to re-use as much of the existing kitchen cupboards, worksurfaces and other items as possible and found Patrick and Kim Whinnett to be very enthusiastic about refurbishing the original cupboards and making additional cupboards to complement those we already had.

"When Daniel Osborne of Woodford Associates had drawn up preliminary plans for the new kitchen Patrick began to design the interior for us, ready for when Listed Building Consent and planning permission were granted. The building works were undertaken by Mason Construction, Buckfastleigh, who liaised closely with us, our architect and Barnes as the work progressed.

"Barnes kindly stored the original kitchen whilst their highly skilled craftsmen refurbished it and made the new cupboards. The run of cabinets/cupboards that had been on the end wall of the house were returned to the same position in the new kitchen with the original granite work surface.

"A modification was made to a large wall cupboard to accommodate the

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## *Genuine quality design and traditionally made furniture built to last a lifetime.*

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new shape of this wall. A large elm topped island was made by using existing and new cupboards, providing a spectacular feature in the kitchen. The existing sink and taps were refurbished and reused as part of the

appliances worked hard to ensure everything went smoothly. Their attention to detail and finish was exemplary. Once the cupboards were in place they were beautifully painted by Ben Stretton.



island, which incorporates dishwasher drawers and a washing machine (both sourced by Barnes).

"A new run of cupboards was built to incorporate the Aga, electric oven and a new larger hob. Granite to top these cupboards was sourced by Barnes to match the existing granite.

"Mason Construction installed a reclaimed wood floor for us, which they obtained from Winkleigh Timber.

"The very skilled craftsmen from Barnes who made the new cupboards, fitted the kitchen and installed the



"A bespoke dresser, made by the cabinetmakers at Barnes, completes the kitchen, giving a wonderful display area for part of our collection of craftsman made pottery.

"We are delighted with the completed project. We now have a room that is flooded with light due to the clever design and a new room, which is far more than a well-designed kitchen. It is a complement and enhancement to our cottage. Thank you to everyone who worked with us to make it possible." ♦

01364 653613 ♦ [www.barnesofashburton.co.uk](http://www.barnesofashburton.co.uk)

24A West Street, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 7DU

